38 Pakistani civilian prisoners who had completed their sentence and provided consular access for the rest. Pakistan, however, released only 19 Indian civilian prisoners. During the Foreign Secretary-level talks on November 14-15, 2006 in New Delhi both sides agreed to release eligible civilian prisoners and fishermen whose nationality had been confirmed by December 25, 2006. During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007, both sides agreed to establish a committee on prisoners, comprising retired judges of the superior judiciary to visit jails in the two countries and propose steps to ensure humane treatment and expedite release of prisoners who have completed their prison terms.

Cancellation of Mobile Phone Connections

†*57. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forty lakh mobile phone connections have been cancelled by his Ministry;

(b) if so, whether these connections were given on the basis of false and incomplete documents;

(c) if so, whether anybody has been held guilty of this crime; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such irregularity in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) As per license conditions, the mobile telephone service providers are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as subscriber. Instructions in this regard have been issued from time to time by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to all the service providers. This includes obtaining proof of identity and address from the subscribers.

Based on the observations of special drive conducted in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad and in Haryana Telecom Circle

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Service area, directions were issued to concerned service providers to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification.

Instructions have also been issued to all the mobile service providers on 22nd November, 2006 for re-verification of existing subscribers by end of March, 2007. Thereafter, if any number is found working without proper verification, a minimum penalty of Rs. 1000 per violation of subscriber number verification shall be levied on the licensee apart from immediate disconnection of the subscriber number by the licensee.

As per the recent report from the associations of mobile service providers, more than 13 lakh connections have been de-activated during the re-verification process.

Difficulties in acquiring Land

*58. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether to work out an action plan for the coal sector in line with the recommendations of the expert committee as spelt out in the Integrated Energy Policy, the Ministry has convened a meeting of the heads of all coal companies to discuss the difficulties faced in acquiring land and the problems associated with tribal land that limits open cast mining; and

(b) to what extent the meeting identified the reasons for current low performance of Coal India Ltd. washeries and the role of CIL in promoting coal benefication and to explore the ways of acquiring overseas coal properties by Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Coal with Chairman-cum Managing Director (CMDs) of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiary companies and senior officials of Ministry of Coal on 11/1/2007 at Kolkata to discuss various issues concerning Coal Sector particularly, in view of the demand projections made by the Committee on Integrated Energy Policy.